IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Withdrawn) A plain old telephone service (POTS) extender for at least one conductor pair for providing packets to a packet network and receiving packets from the packet network comprising:

a subscriber line interface circuit (SLIC) having a connection to the at least one conductor pair, said SLIC having a upstream voice signal output and a downstream voice signal input;

a codec for converting the upstream voice signal output to a upstream digital voice signal output and converting a downstream digital voice signal input to the downstream voice signal;

a vocoder for converting the upstream digital voice signal output to a first data stream and for converting a second data stream to the downstream digital voice signal input;

a packet assembler and disassembler (PAD) for converting the first data stream into a first at least one packet and for converting a second at least one packet into the second data stream, said PAD coupled to the packet network, said PAD having at least one network address; and

an output means for transmitting a master DSL modem control signal based on a fallback signal carried by the at least one conductor pair.

2. (Withdrawn) The POTS extender of claim 1, wherein the output means further comprises:

a loop current detector having a connection to the at least one conductor pair, said loop current detector providing the master DSL modem control signal.

3. (Withdrawn) The POTS extender of claim 1 wherein the SLIC further comprises:

a telephony current source;

a switch hook detector; and

a ringing signal source.

4. (Withdrawn) The POTS extender of claim 1 further comprising:

a master DSL modem having at least one network address and connected to the at least one conductor pair.

5. (Withdrawn) The local loop circuit of claim 4 wherein the at least one network address comprises at least one asynchronous transfer mode virtual circuit.

6. (Withdrawn) The POTS extender of claim 1 wherein the at least one network address comprises at least one asynchronous transfer mode virtual circuit.

7. (Currently Amended) A DSL suppression circuit for suppressing DSL modem operation on a local loop comprising:

a loop current detector for sensing current drain on the local loop;

a means for providing a suppression signal controllable by said loop current detector; and

a master DSL modem operative coupled to ~~the~~ a subscriber line interference circuit (SLIC), said master DSL modem operating in a quiescent state upon receiving the suppression signal.

8. (Original) The DSL suppression circuit of claim 7 wherein the means for providing a suppression signal comprises:

a relay operable on a removal of power to connect a voice conductor pair to the local loop.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a customer premise line connection to a DSL modem comprising the steps of:

detecting whether ~~the~~ a line has a off-hook condition or an on-hook condition; and

energizing a relay to couple the ~~customer premise~~ line to ~~the~~ a DSL modem, ~~providing~~ wherein the line has ~~an~~ said on-hook condition.

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10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of detecting ~~an~~ said off-hook condition comprises the step of sensing current drain.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of booting up a processor.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of energizing ~~a~~ said relay comprises connecting the line to at least one subscriber line interface circuit (SLIC).

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of energizing ~~a~~ the relay comprises connecting the DSL modem to a subscriber line.